

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

May 23, 1959

BEWARE OF THE DOG IN THE VAN

A visitor to the London parcels centre of British Road Services would naturally expect to hear the sound of motor engines, for nearly 500 vans arrive or leave there every day. But he might well be puzzled on hearing a number of dogs barking in the depot.

Further investigation, however, would lead him to the depot's kennels, for here are housed 28 of the 48 highly trained dogs guarding the vans and depots in the B.R.S. London Area. These animals are of many kinds—Alsations, Labradors, Airedales, Bull Terriers, Wire-haired Terriers, and alert little mongrels.

Mr. J. Moore, the man in charge of the dogs, told a CN correspondent that these dogs get three weeks' to a month's training.

"The first thing is to win the confidence of the dog," he said. "Without that, little can be accomplished." Then the new recruit is taught that it is his duty to stop anyone interfering with the vehicle on which he is riding.

Princess on holiday

Princess Margaret seen standing in the mouth of a huge statue in a park she visited during her Italian holiday.



Since the introduction of guard-dogs some ten years ago there has been little pilfering from vans. Would-be thieves are inclined to change their minds when they see an alert dog on guard!

Each driver has his own special dog, who goes with him on every delivery. Naturally, drivers and



dogs grow very attached to each other—so much so that one driver has special permission to take his dog home for the weekend!

Every attention is given to the dogs at the depot. Their food is specially chosen, and a vet is always at hand to attend any dog "off colour." And when the time comes for retiring, special efforts are made to find a good home.

These dogs are worthy of such care—for they save British Road Services much money every year.

Horse given back his sight

A horse which three years ago began to go blind has had his sight restored and is winning point-to-point races again.

The horse is the seven-year-old Bridgewell, owned by Mr. Robin Soames of Kelvedon, Essex, and he has been undergoing a new cortisone treatment at the Equine Research Station of the Animal Health Trust at Newmarket. There, the doctors have just given him an eye test and have found that the treatment has been a success. It is the first time a horse has received this treatment.

An expert at this Research Station says: "Bridgewell began to develop cataracts and to lose the distant vision in the pupils of his eyes as well. He would shy away from the bright sunlight and miss his fences when he was racing. He would have gone totally blind but for this treatment."

Now Bridgewell is racing again. Recently he was in the Essex and Suffolk Hunt's steeplechase at Higham, near Colchester.

The Newmarket experts say that the success of the new treatment opens up tremendous prospects of dealing with an eye disease to which horses are prone.

HEYA HAS THE HONOUR

The town of Eye has long claimed that its charter dates from the reign of King John (1199–1216); but after four years of research in the country archives it has now been proved that it was granted by Henry IV in 1408.

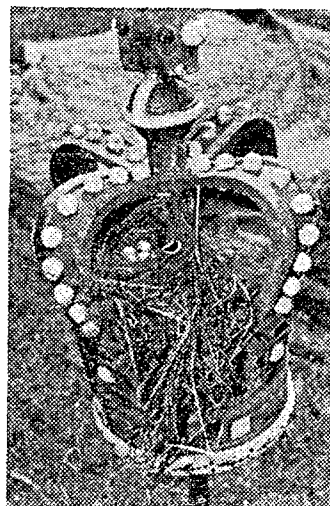
The charter which Eye has claimed as its own was in fact granted to the town of Hythe, Kent.

The East Suffolk archivist, Mr. Derek Charman, has explained that the mistake could have arisen because of the similarity in the early spelling of the names of the two towns. Hythe was known as "Heya," and Eye as "Eia."

Old trams on show

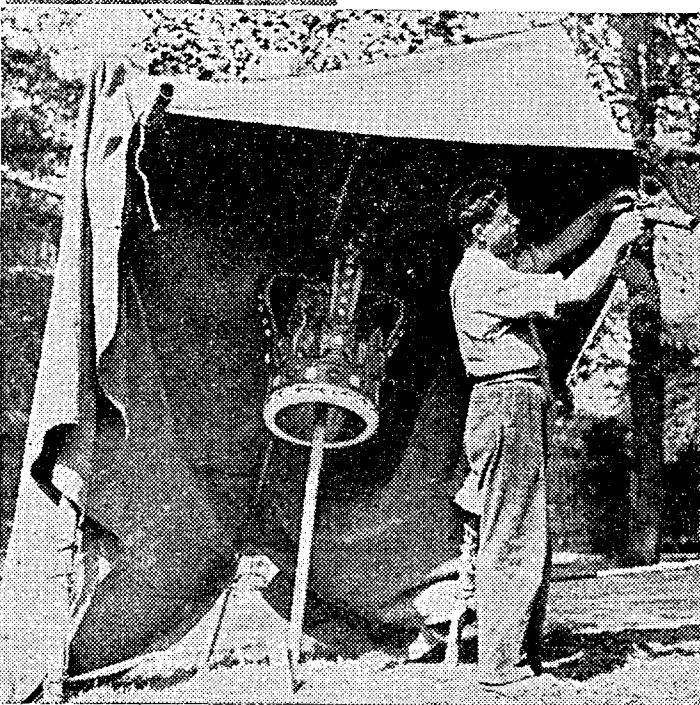
A museum devoted entirely to tramcars is to be opened by the Tramway Museum Society in a quarry at Crich, near Ambergate, in Derbyshire. Members of the society are at present spending their spare time getting the museum ready.

When completed, it will be more than a place where you can merely see old-fashioned trams, for it is hoped to lay tracks along which the cars can run. This means that visitors will be able to enjoy rides.



MISSING CROWN

When The Mall was being decorated for the visit of the Shah of Persia to London, crowns were prepared for the tops of the flag poles. But a thrush nested in one of the crowns, so instead of setting it up on the pole and disturbing her, a canopy was made to protect the coming family from the weather—and the processional route was one crown short.



Polio boy plays in goal

Ipswich Town goalkeeper George McMillan may soon have another chance to see an eight-year-old polio victim who was "adopted" by his side last season.

The boy lives in the Scottish mining village of Rigside, and the Ipswich goalkeeper, who was spending a holiday in his native Scotland, saw him trying to play football with one leg in irons.

Said George: "This young boy loves playing football and actually plays goalkeeper in village matches. The other boys ignore the fact that he is an invalid and just fire shots at him—that's the way he wants it."

George told his team-mates about this boy with the never-say-die spirit and every week since then the Ipswich players have been sending chatty letters to him with football pictures for his collection.

Now George McMillan may soon get a chance to see this plucky lad again. He has been placed on the transfer list, and says he will go only to Scotland.

FARMER BUILDS A LAUNCH

Mr. W. Flexman aged 88, a retired New Zealand farmer, told his family last summer that he was going to build a fishing launch. Every morning he would get up at five o'clock and walk down to his shed on the beach. They did not take him seriously.

Not long ago they got a big surprise—he had finished his boat, a seaworthy 15-foot cabin launch. Some 40 of Mr. Flexman's relatives and friends came to help her down the slipway.

NEW GLIDING RECORDS

The British out-and-return record for two-seater gliders has been broken by Mr. Wally Kahn in a Slingsby T.42 Eagle. He flew from Lasham Gliding Centre, Hampshire, to Nympsfield and back—131 miles in all.

Other record-breakers were Commander N. Goodhart, who covered 360 miles to Scotland; and Mrs. Anne Burns, who set a women's record of 283 miles.

KEEPER OF THE GREAT SEAL

The important job of the Lord Chancellor

By the CN Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Russell of Liverpool is writing a book about the lives of famous men who have held the joint offices of Lord High Chancellor and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. It is a fascinating subject, for many men whose names are household words have held the office of Lord Chancellor.

LORD CHANCELLOR is the short title by which we refer to the distinguished peer who presides over the House of Lords. In effect he is the Speaker of the Lords, though he does not manage the debates with the same powers which the Speaker of the Commons enjoys.

From earliest times he was styled Lord Keeper only. He is the highest civil subject in the Realm. On State occasions he takes precedence after the Royal Family over all the Sovereign's subjects except the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SOVEREIGN'S ADVISOR

It is he who hands to the Sovereign the Speech from the Throne to be made at the opening of Parliament. He is president of the highest Appeal Court in the land—the judicial peers sitting in the House of Lords as a court of justice. He has political duties as a Cabinet Minister and he is also a Privy Councillor.

Soon after the Norman Conquest he became confidential adviser to the Sovereign on State affairs—"keeper of the King's conscience, visitor to all hospitals and colleges of the King's foundation, and patron of all Crown livings" (that is, of Church offices).

Originally the Chancellorship was held by great churchmen, such as Cardinal Wolsey. But the last churchman to become Lord Chancellor was John Williams, Archbishop of York from 1621-25. Regularly since then the office has been held by leading lawyers. The holder is often said to "occupy the Woolsack," the large red cushion on which the Lord Chancellor sits in the House of Lords.

Being stuffed with wool, it was a symbol of England's great staple industry, wool, during the Middle Ages, and later.

The Lord Chancellor is also called Lord Keeper because by tradition he is responsible for the safe custody of the Great Seal.

This is a metal disc, engraved with the reigning Sovereign's likeness, from which seals are made to be fixed to all major State documents. A new master-seal is cast at the beginning of each new reign, and is symbolically broken when the reign ends.

Among documents to which the Great Seal is fastened are writs to call Parliament together and treaties with foreign countries. The genuineness of such documents could be doubted unless they bore its imprint, and therefore it is essential that the Great Seal itself should not fall into the wrong hands.

TWICE STOLEN

On two occasions in our history the Great Seal was stolen. In the first case the abdicating James II, as he was escaping by boat across the Thames, dropped the Great Seal into the river.

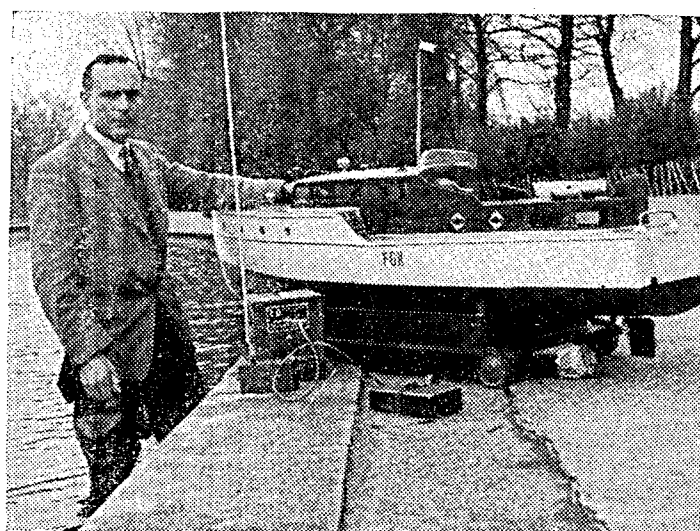
The other occasion, less well known, was when Lord Thurlow was Lord Chancellor, in the reign of George III. On the night of March 24, 1784, thieves broke into the London home of Lord Thurlow and made off with the Great Seal. There was a big outcry, for without this precious emblem State documents could not be properly prepared.

After three days a reward of £200 was offered. Eventually the thieves were found, but by that time the seal, which was of silver, had been melted down.

Exhibition on the train

Exports from Britain to Canada have increased tenfold in the past ten years. But in Canada it is felt that the figure could be higher if only British products were more widely known there. So next year the British Engineers' Association is to spend £500,000 on a travelling exhibition which will tour Canada for two months.

The exhibition will consist of a train of 60 coaches, each a mobile shop window showing internal combustion engines and gas turbines, electronic equipment and scientific instruments, valves and tubes, machine tools, and many other products of the 500 firms in the Association.



Outdoor power station

A power station now being built near Baku in the Russian Caucasian oil republic of Azerbaijan may be a model for future power stations.

It is completely oil-fired but all the apparatus is outdoors. The boilers and turbines are not housed in enormous buildings as has been usual but stand on ferro-concrete platforms in the open. This method of constructing a power station is considered to save two-fifths of the cost of erection.

All the production processes are automatic, and controllers watch the operation of the electrical equipment, the machines, and boilers, by television.

TOY THEATRES

A Toy Theatre and Peepshow Exhibition will be on view at the Poetry Society's London headquarters, 33 Portman Square, from May 20 to May 30.

A rare collection of cut-out models, plain and coloured, will be on view, and visitors will be able to turn the pages of Victorian albums and scrapbooks which reflect the gaiety and drama of earlier days.

The Exhibition will be open daily from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m.

Admission: Adults 6d., Children 3d. There are special terms for schools.

News from Everywhere

STILL FULL OF BEANS

The liner Queen Mary had to reduce her speed on a recent voyage to New York to keep to schedule. Said Captain John W. Caunce: "The 'old lady' doesn't like this talk of retiring." He was referring to the announcement that the two "Queens" are to be brought out of service.

Twelve-year-old Roger Farley, who risked his life to save a dog from the sea at Great Yarmouth, has been awarded a silver medal by the National Canine Defence League.

IN THE SWIM

Two Windsor schools—Dedworth Primary and Oakfield Junior—are to build swimming pools.

A plaque recording the Prince of Wales's first appearance in Wales (last August) has been unveiled at Holyhead, Anglesey.

REGULAR DUCKING

Fifteen-year-old Edward Coe will take the part of a priest at the Magna Carta pageant at Bury St. Edmunds next month. In each of the 24 performances he will be thrown, fully clothed, into the River Lark.

The rescue of wild animals from the area flooded by the Kariba dam in Rhodesia is expected to go on until 1963, when the new lake will be full. So far, over 650 animals have been saved.

Two people who recently tried to cross the Alps in a balloon came down on a glacier and had to be rescued by plane.

Michael Rhodes of Southsea, an assistant ship's purser, has won a State scholarship to Oxford after four years of postal tuition from the Seafarers' Education Service.

HIRE-PURCHASE FLIGHTS

Australians flying to New Zealand by Tasman Empire Airways can now pay ten per cent down for their tickets, and the remainder over 12 months.

A braille encyclopedia in 15 volumes is to be published by the American Printing House for the Blind.

The 21,000-ton Savannah, the world's first atomic-powered merchant ship, is to be launched by Mrs. Eisenhower on July 21 at Camden, New Jersey. The vessel is designed to run 100,000 miles without refuelling.

THEY SAY . . .

I FIND it very difficult to hate anyone.

Lord Attlee

THE average speed at which people can travel in London is eleven miles an hour. In some cities it is far less, and in Glasgow it is under six miles an hour.

Mr. G. R. Strauss, M.P.

THE British Commonwealth is a kind of club whose members work in complete liberty without interfering in each other's affairs.

Mr. Nkrumah, Ghana's Prime Minister

THANKS TO THE AIRCRAFT-CARRIER

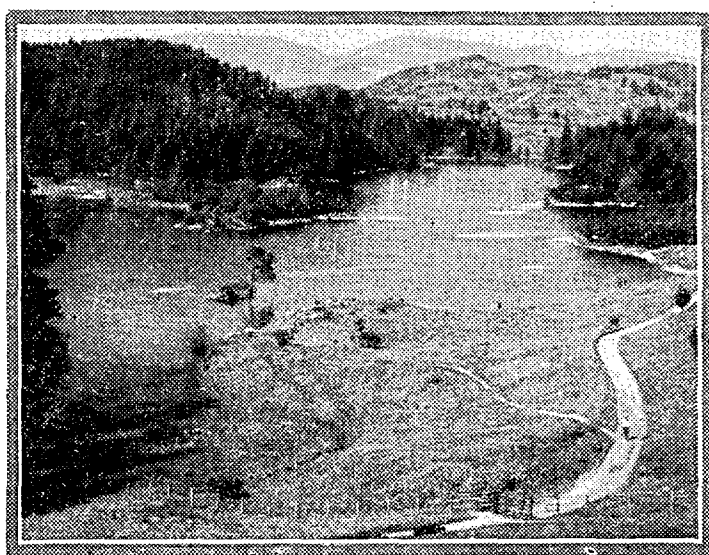
Men of Britain's biggest aircraft-carrier, the Eagle, recently gave £180 to eight-year-old Tina Groves, a pupil at the Royal School for the Blind, at Bristol. The money will go towards buying a guide-dog for her.

This was the idea of Petty-Officer Gordon Lowrey after Tina and her parents had visited the Eagle. For two years the crew had been saving silver paper to raise money, but Petty-Officer Lowrey felt that more should be done to speed the buying of the guide-dog. So for four weeks an empty oil drum became a collection box, and in that time £180 was collected. It included a sum

made up by converting the crew's surplus francs after the ship had been to a French port.

The founder of the scheme hopes the idea will spread. "If I have my way," he said, "every ship in the Navy will adopt a blind child from the town or city with which it is associated, and the crew will save to buy the child a guide-dog. During the war, when towns and cities adopted ships, the crews were sent parcels of food and clothing. This is the Navy's chance to repay that kindness."

It is an excellent idea, and no doubt the Navy—never at a loss to give help where it is wanted—will follow in the Eagle's wake.



OUR HOMELAND

The lovely Tarn Hows, near Conistone, Lancashire



Proud banner

The new colours presented to the 39th Westminster Scout Troop. This was in honour of winning so many badges.

Old London Bridge

London Bridge is broken down. So runs the nursery rhyme. And London Bridge—the old one—really did break down. It happened after the severe winter of 1281-82, when the frozen Thames thawed and masses of ice broke five of the bridge's 20 arches.

This is one of the many incidents described by Philip Rush in his new book, *London's Wonderful Bridge* (Harrap, 10s. 6d.).

Old London Bridge stood for 622 years; one of the sights of London with its houses and shops straddling the river like a street, and below them, the out-going tide rushing in cataracts through the arches. It was built between 1176 and 1209, and the man who inspired the project was a monk, Peter Colechurch, whose fellow-citizens thought him mad when he proposed building a stone bridge across the Thames.

He did not live to see its completion, but Londoners changed their opinion of him when it finally spanned the Thames. It was probably the most wonderful bridge in the world at that time, and men came

FAMOUS BANK LOSES A PENNY

One of Britain's famous banks has just lost a penny! But the loss is not serious—in fact, it merely marks the changed conditions since this bank first opened its doors, just a hundred years ago.

The Yorkshire Penny Bank was formed in 1859, and to mark its centenary this month the title has been changed to The Yorkshire Bank, the word "penny" being considered out of date.

For many years this bank has run an extensive system of schools savings banks, and these will continue. But the main business is run at 160 branches,

staffed by over 1000 clerks, a far cry from the position at the end of its first year, when 9546 depositors had placed £2962 in the "Yorkshire Penny's" solitary branch in Leeds.

The original idea of this "people's bank" lay, it is said, in a sermon preached by Charles Kingsley in 1856 in which he urged the more fortunate members of the community to "help the poor to help themselves." As a result, a few Yorkshiremen got together and started this bank which has just dropped the penny from its title.

Buying British

Russia has ordered from the British firm of Courtaulds a complete plant for the manufacture of synthetic fibres and yarns. The order is worth £15,000,000. Canada has ordered turbo-prop engines for 15 aircraft from the Rolls-Royce company, an order worth about £4,350,000.

Ideas for careers at Olympia

School-leavers will find much to interest them at the National Education and Careers Exhibition which opens at Olympia next Tuesday.

Many great organisations are displaying the prospects they can offer to recruits. For example, the Gas Council has a stand with six large pictures, each with a telephone on which the visitor can hear a description of the training illustrated by the picture. Films will also be shown, and Gas Industry Education Officers will give information and advice.

Open until June 5, this exhibition is being run by the National Union of Teachers. Their special stand draws attention to the Youth Employment Service, explaining how it helps school-leavers to choose suitable employment.

Empire Day becomes Commonwealth Day

Ever since 1904 May 24, Queen Victoria's birthday, has been Empire Day. This year, for the first time, it will be Commonwealth Day, according to agreements made last year between the governments concerned.

The Commonwealth Day Movement has among its objects the forging of links between schools throughout the Commonwealth and the encouragement of Overseas friendships. Membership is free and the headquarters are at 18 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

Lady who fought for the King

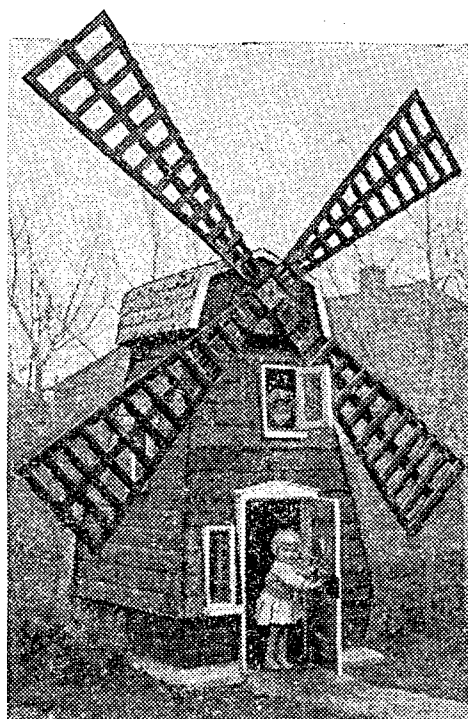
Wardour Castle, an imposing 18th-century residence near Tisbury, Wiltshire, is to become a girls' school. It has heroic associations, for it is a mile from the ruined Wardour Castle which Lady Blanche Arundel defended for King Charles against Cromwell's men in 1643.

Though aged 61, Lady Blanche held out there for six days with only 50 men against some 1300 Roundheads. They rocked the old castle with mines, hurled fireballs through the windows, and blew down the doors. Lady Blanche would only surrender on condition that her servants were treated with respect, and her castle not plundered. The last condition was afterwards broken, but the gallant lady and her little band marched out with honour.

In the following year her Cavalier son came to Wardour, and rather than let the Roundheads keep his home, he blew part of it up with mines. And that is why the scene of such stirring events is a picturesque ruin.

Bird's nest in the china cupboard

A jackdaw owned by Mrs. C. Gifford of Hales, Norfolk, has built its nest in her china cupboard. An untidy affair of sticks, straw, and feathers, it nearly fills the whole top shelf above the teapots, cups, and saucers.



Windmill for two

Denise and Nicola Holmes of Littlehampton, Sussex, have their very own windmill. It was built by their father out of wood from an old fence.

Desirable residences for explorers

Plastic igloos furnished in modern style and well-heated will be the homes of men who are to explore Greenland this summer.

The six scientists and explorers come from five countries: France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Denmark. Their purpose is to study Greenland's icecap, and find out if it indicates changes in the world's weather. They will measure the depth of the ice and study its formation.

OTHER PEOPLE'S RUBBISH

Fifteen Girl Guides from two North Yorkshire villages, Goathland and Sleights, recently cleared a ten-mile stretch of roadside near their homes.

Among the things they found were old car wheels, tyres, frying pans, a perambulator, a car battery, hundreds of empty and broken bottles, L plates, three pairs of shoes, two pairs of boys' trousers, and a tie. They filled 146 one-hundredweight sacks. The job took them a whole week.

AIRFIX

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WINDMILL 2/-

STATION PLATFORM 2/-

THATCHED COTTAGE 2/-

SIGNAL BOX 2/-

CONTROL TOWER 5/-

CHURCH 3/-

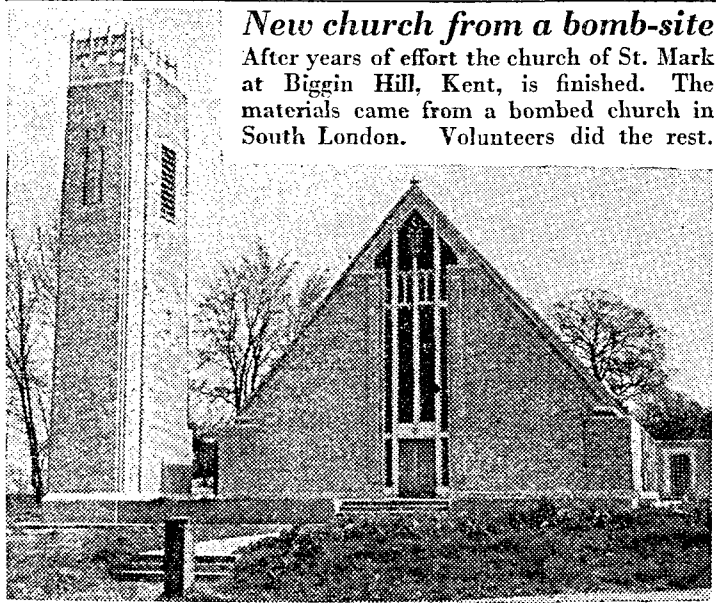
PLATFORM FITTINGS 2/-

HERE'S THE LATEST!

SIGNAL GANTRY 2/-

New church from a bomb-site

After years of effort the church of St. Mark at Biggin Hill, Kent, is finished. The materials came from a bombed church in South London. Volunteers did the rest.



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ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

Sooty and Sweep off on safari

WHY not join Sooty, Sweep, and Harry Corbett "On Safari" in BBC Children's TV next Sunday? A real aircraft has been chartered to enable these intrepid explorers, for three Sundays running, to follow the trail of veterans like David Attenborough and Armand and Michaela Denis.

Sooty and Sweep are being fitted out with tropical uniforms and have already tried on their pith helmets.

Silver City Airways are providing producer Trevor Hill with a Bristol Wayfarer aircraft. This is a 48-seater passenger and freight plane, so it looks as if Sooty and Co. will be taking lots of baggage. They will be filmed setting off for Africa from Squire's Gate, Blackpool, to track the Wild Man of Mombesi.

To tell the truth, the Wayfarer

will actually touch down by the canal at Chester Zoo, but the vegetation there is so tropical that you would have to know Africa to notice any difference.

The live part of the programmes, as distinct from film, will be done in the North of England studios disguised as the African Bush, with real animals from the Nocturnal House at Chester Zoo.

Silver City Airways tell me that for the programme they are naming the aircraft Sooty's Safari Flight—and it will carry the same name throughout the season while carrying holiday passengers to Chester and the Isle of Man.

Trevor Hill promises a really "breath-taking" serial.



Thrashing it out on radio

RADIO has given many programmes to TV, but next Monday TV returns the compliment with that famous grammar school series, Thrash It Out. Hywel Davies, who acts less like a chairman than a sort of benevolent uncle in these fiery debates between Welsh schools, will introduce the series in the Light at 8.30 p.m.

The boys and girls are given a free hand. Hywel Davies never offers an opinion of his own—he is too busy trying to keep order.

Co-Education, We Are Moonstruck, and There's Nothing Like Competition are among the topics to be "thrashed out." Schools taking part are in Carmarthen, Cardiff, Bangor, Wrexham, Welshpool, Swansea, and Whitchurch (Glam.).

Later on Advertising will be argued about, followed by, To Be Young is Very Heaven; The Machine is Master of the Man; and East, West, Home's Not Best.

Parachute Padre drops in

STAY tuned-in after BBC Children's TV next Sunday (May 24) and you will meet the Parachute Padre. He is the Rev. Horace McClelland, who recently returned from Cyprus with the 16th Parachute Brigade. He is dropping in on Sunday Special to talk about his experiences.

Caravan sets off again

THE BBC Children's Caravan will be given a fine send-off on its summer tour on Wednesday. It will be drawn up in the New Forest, near Beaulieu Abbey, where Lord Montagu of Beaulieu keeps his museum of vintage motorcars.

I hear that Lord Montagu will have six of them cruising around with children as passengers. Viewers will also be able to see New Forest ponies in a nearby pen.

IT'S ALL DONE BY MIRRORS

TELEVISION looks at itself in Associated-Rediffusion's current Schools series on Mondays called Matter in Use. The idea is to give 13-15-year-olds a better grasp of TV's fundamentals, including sound, light, electricity, and electronics.

Some of the experiments are a real challenge to the Producer. For example, the other day it was intended to show how, if iron filings are sprayed on a card underneath a magnetic bar, they take up the pattern of the magnetic field when the card is gently tapped. Obviously the card had to lie horizontally. To televise the experiment direct would have meant an elaborate mount for the TV camera so that it pointed downwards.

Charles Warren, the A-R. Schools Research Officer, found an easy way out of the difficulty. As

The Huggetts change their children

WHEN Joe and Ethel Huggett return to the Light Programme at 7.31 p.m. next Friday for another 20-week spell of Meet the Huggetts, the voices will be the same as for the past six years—Jack Warner and Kathleen Harrison.

But the children, Bobby and Jane, are constantly changing. Last year they were George Howell and Cynthia Bizeray, but boy and girl actors, like other teenagers, have a habit of growing up, and their voices grow up, too.

This time Bobby Huggett will be played by 12-year-old James Langley of Neasden, Middlesex, and Jane by Alanna Boyce (18), of Northolt, Middlesex. Both are still training at the Corona Stage School.

This will be James's first appearance on radio. Alanna has been on TV in The Appleyards, Jane Eyre, and Pride and Prejudice.

Fair and wise and good and gay

MORE than two months ago I told you about Sunday's Child, the new ABC Television series at 5.15 p.m. on Sundays, starring Mandy Miller. It was then expected that these stories about a bright resourceful girl coping with family troubles would start on March 22. There were difficulties, though, in arranging to have them networked simultaneously on the various ITV channels. These, I am glad to say, have now been overcome.

Mandy, as one of the youngest regular TV stars, will be seen weekly from Sunday, June 14, with Daphne Anderson as her widowed mother. When things go wrong, it is Mandy who finds the way out, but not before we see mother and daughter caught up in all sorts of funny scrapes and adventures.

VOLCANO IN ERUPTION

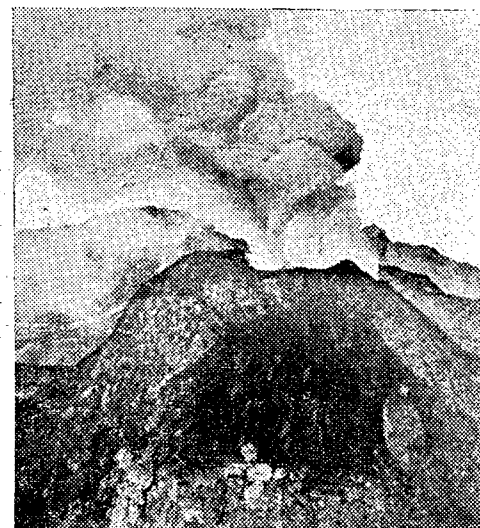
Taking a look at the mighty elements

A MILLION-VOLT man-made lightning flash in a Lime Grove studio—that was one of Producer Tony Arnold's plans for The Mighty Elements series beginning in BBC Children's TV on Friday.

"I had it all worked out," Mr. Arnold told me. "We were going to use an arc discharge apparatus. Then the engineers objected. They said the spark would blind the cameras and probably rock the studio."

Despite this setback, Tony Arnold believes these fortnightly programmes about the drama of uncontrolled nature will be full of thrills.

Most items will be on film. If they all come up to the standard of next Friday's, dealing with volcanoes and earthquakes, no one should have cause to complain. Dr. Harold Wilson, a New Zealander who takes to volcanoes like a duck to the water, went into the crater of Vesuvius. We can



not only see the film he made down there, but a sensational close-up sequence of the volcano in eruption.

Does lightning strike from the clouds to earth, or vice versa? The answer is vice versa, as we can see on June 5. Other programmes will deal with man-made rain, as well as snow, ice, and vapour trails; water spouts, tornadoes, and tidal waves; meteorites; and hurricanes and cyclones.

Looking for excitement

THE North Pole, the African jungle, and the Australian Bush might seem to be a better background for adventure, but there is plenty of excitement in your own home town if only you know where to look for it.

This is the theme of Venture, a series due shortly in Associated-Rediffusion's Children's programmes on Fridays to replace Record Shop. I hear that the stories are being scripted by Peter Ling.

Macfarlane's Way, the current serial on Tuesdays, will be fol-

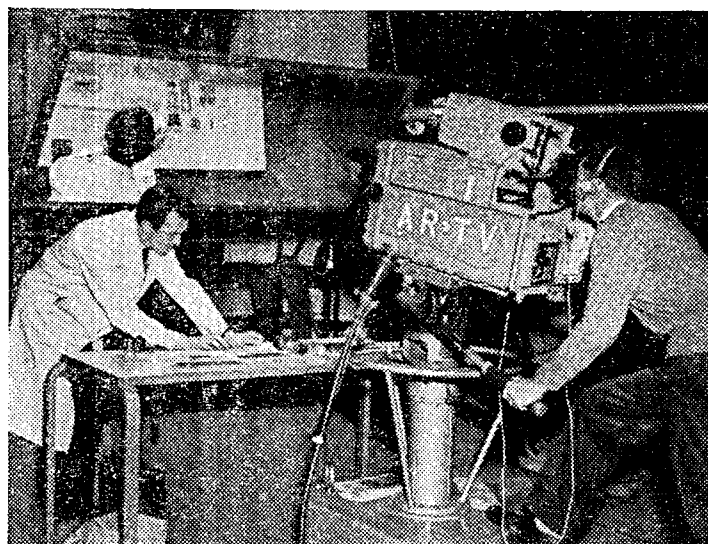
lowed, after a short interval, by The Sword and the Lute. This is a serial drama about Henry IV of England and a plot against his life. Producer Prudence Nesbitt is looking for a boy to play the part of Robin the page, who helps to expose the plotters and warns the King just in time. Joyce Thwaytes, who wrote the story, had a big success recently with her one-act TV play, The Duke Plays at Hide and Seek.

Children's programmes on ITV will be cut down by about half in the last week of June and the first week of July. The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis championships will be taking the air up till 5.30 each evening.

Children's own Eisteddfod

THE usually quiet town of Lampeter, in rural Cardiganshire, is having a shake-up all this week. Crowding into it from all parts of Wales for their own Eisteddfod are hundreds of children. They are members of the Welsh Youth Movement, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, competing in songs and recitations, drama and gymnastics, for prizes of banners and shields.

Records made at the Eisteddfod will be given in BBC Children's Hour on Saturday. We can expect something out of the ordinary. These boys and girls are the "cream" of their class, having won their way to Lampeter through local and county competitions.



the picture shows, the camera stayed upright, with the lens focussed on a mirror which had been arranged at an angle of 45 degrees and the iron filings lying flat on the bench.

Winged tourists from America

Not long ago the "bush telegraph" operated by ornithologists signalled to me that yet another American bird, a ring-necked duck, had been seen on a flooded gravel pit near Reading. Unfortunately this bird, which is very like our own tufted duck, had departed before my visit, but if I had been successful, it would have been the seventh or eighth American bird I had seen in the British Isles—and some bird-watchers can claim to have done much better than this.

Though the Atlantic is mostly more than 2000 miles wide, an astonishingly large number of birds do manage to find their way across it.

THRUSH IN THE SCILLIES

Almost every year nowadays a number of American waders are reported by keen bird-watchers in some part of Britain. I have myself seen four, the yellowshank and the Pectoral, Buff-breasted, and Baird's sandpipers. Last autumn a dozen individuals of five species of American waders were noticed in various parts of the British Isles.

Even more exciting, however, was the arrival last autumn of a northern waterthrush in the Scilly Isles, for this American land bird had never before been seen in this country. Two other American visitors which had only occurred once or twice before were a Balti-

more oriole on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, and a purple gallinule, a kind of moorhen, also in the Scilly Isles.

The ring-necked duck I mentioned was also in this category,



The purple gallinule

for it had only been seen in Britain twice before. The first was a specimen found in London's Leadenhall Market in January 1801, said to have been shot in the Lincolnshire Fens. The second appeared on the little pond in front of Peter Scott's studio at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire one day in March 1955. There was already one pinioned captive ring-necked duck in the collection, and it was thought to be very unlikely that this bird had escaped from some other collection, as it is very rare in captivity and nobody who has one is likely to let it fly away.

BLOWN ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Not so many years ago experts considered it was impossible for small birds to fly the Atlantic unaided, and the numerous small American birds which had been recorded in the British Isles were assumed to be escaped cage birds, or at least as having come over on board a ship. Recently, however, it has come to be realised that under certain weather conditions quite small birds can in fact be blown right across the Atlantic quickly enough to prevent them dying of starvation or exhaustion.

A survey made recently showed that at least 75 individual American land birds of 30 species had been recorded in the British Isles

up to 1954. The majority of these (40) had been recorded in the autumn migration months of September to November, demonstrating that it was a normal migratory movement, except that the birds had gone rather far astray. A smaller return migration movement is detectable in May.

The most frequent of these American land migrants is the yellow-billed cuckoo, which breeds southwards from Quebec and North Dakota to the Florida Keys and Mexico, and winters in South America. Twenty-one yellow-billed cuckoos have appeared in various parts of the British Isles since 1825, and seven more on the Continent, and all these have appeared in either October or November.

Expert ornithologists are now having to revise their former opinions and to agree that sometimes American birds can be counted as British birds, too.

RICHARD FITTER



Lucky day for some train-spotters

Four boys of St. Marylebone Grammar School, London, had the thrill of their lives when invited to ride on the new main line diesel-electric loco, Scafell Pike, at Marylebone Station. Their host was Sir Brian Robertson, Chairman of the British Transport Commission.

Kit Carson, legend of the West

The name of Kit Carson has been made familiar in a host of Western yarns, but the true story of this trapper, hunter, guide, and scout is as enthralling as any of the fictional tales of his exploits. It is well told by Mark Boesch in *Kit Carson of the Old West* (Burns and Oates, 12s. 6d.).

An orphan boy, he started his life of adventure at 16, when he ran away from the ill-tempered saddler in Missouri to whom he had been apprenticed. Joining a west-bound wagon train, he went to Santa Fé.

Kit wanted to be a trapper, but in New Mexico he was turned down by the leaders of expeditions. Too young, they said. So for two years he drove wagons. But eventually he was taken on a trapping expedition.

Kit was given six traps and told

to set them in the river if he saw any signs of beaver. Kit saw plenty of signs, but next morning he found that only one beaver had been caught. When the trappers heard how he had set the traps they roared with laughter.

LEAVING HIS SCENT

"Kit," said their leader, "that beaver you took must have been the dumbest beaver on the Salt River," and he explained that to walk around on the bank and climb down into the water, as Kit had done, meant that his scent was left everywhere.

But young Kit soon mastered the art of trapping. He was already a crack shot and before long he was an acknowledged leader of the frontiersmen in their frequent fights with the Indians. Yet he was destined to become the

friend of the Indians, who called him Little Chief.

When the trade in beaver fur declined Kit gave up trapping and took to buffalo hunting. Then he became guide to John Frémont, the celebrated explorer, with whom he went to the Great Salt Lake.

After more adventures in the Mexican War, he became a rancher, settling among his Indian friends. When the American Civil War broke out he joined the Northern forces and fought against the Texans and then with Indians who had started a war on the whites.

In 1868, while making a peace treaty with the Indians, he died suddenly, leaving the memory of a brave, just, and kindly man whose name was to become legendary throughout the West.

Young angler beats the veterans

Veteran anglers lined the South Pier at Lowestoft, but none had caught a fish. Then on walked 12-year-old Barry Walker with a hand-line.

The older anglers smiled to themselves as they watched Barry make his cast. But it was Barry who had the last laugh, for he caught a 4 lb. codling.

Now someone has given Barry a proper rod and line.

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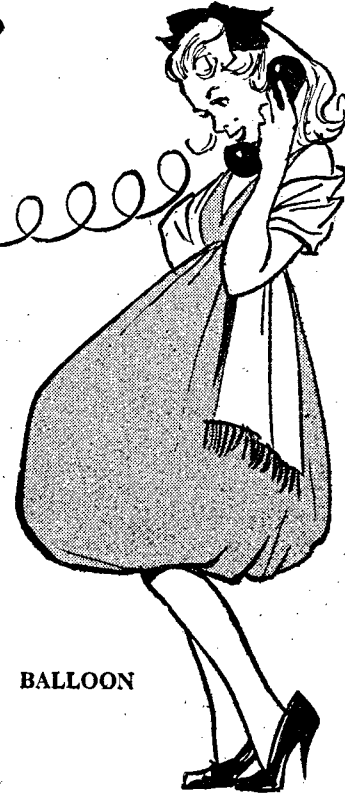
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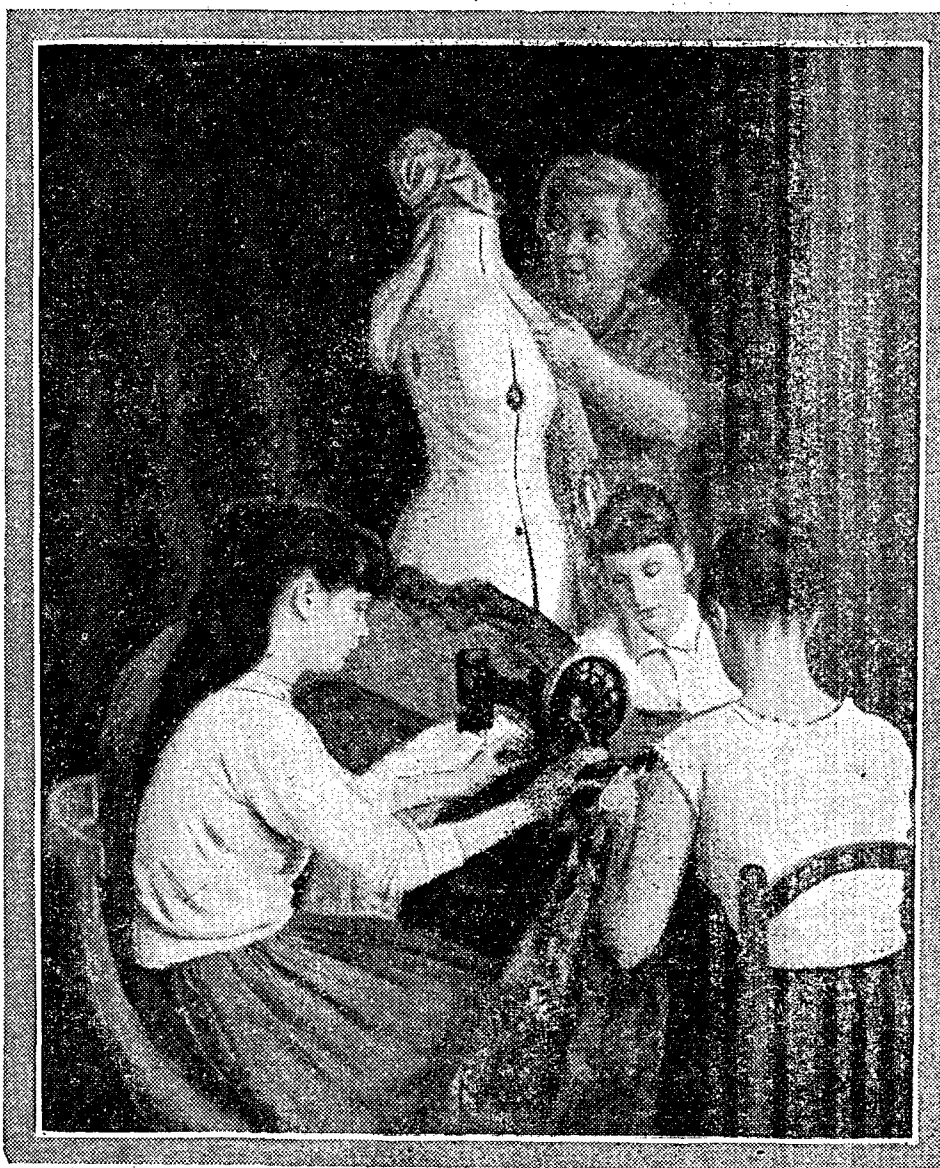
Effie, by Norman Hepple, A.R.A.



Students in the Park, by Christopher Ironside



Mrs. H. M. Oppenheim and her children, Caroline, Rose Anne and Philip, by A. K. Lawrence, R.A.



Dressmakers, by Robin Guthrie



Peggy Ashcroft as Imogen, by the late Anthony Devas, A.R.A.



Portrait William I



Robin Shute, by Jan

The C N selection from the season's great event at Burlington House—the 191st exhibition

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aper, May 23, 1958

THE PICTURE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

7



Victoria, James and Jemima, by John Walton



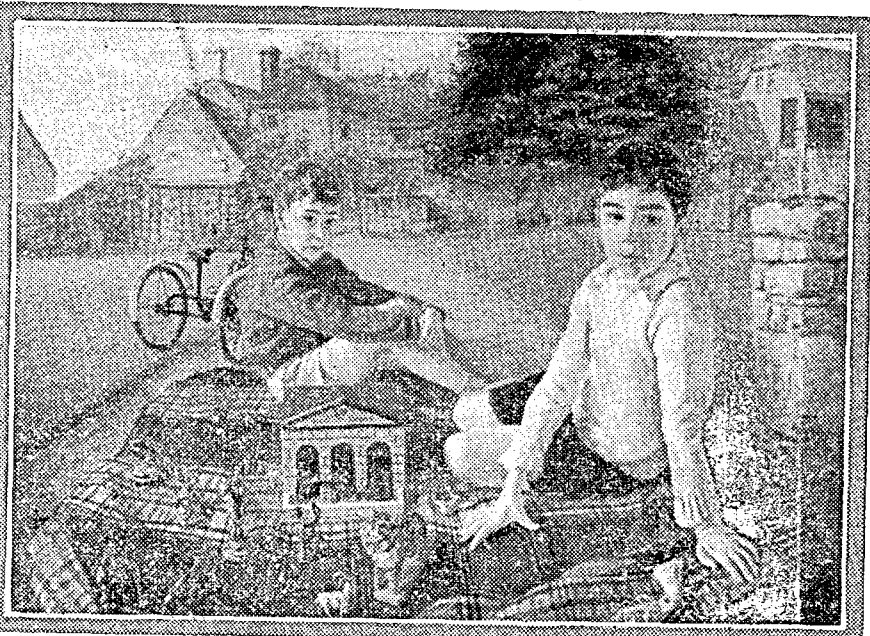
Gay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Raber, by Elizabeth Scott-Moore



Eileen, a bronze by Sir William Reid Dick, R.A.



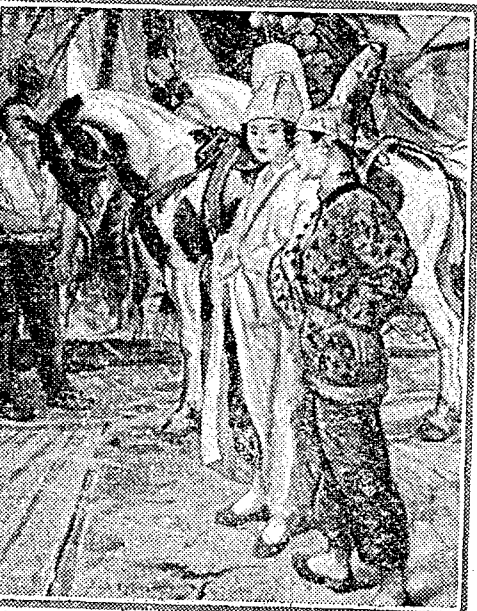
Study, by Dring, R.A.



Andrew and Nicholas Vernède, by Claude Harrison



Amanda, by A. R. Middleton Todd, R.A.



Chinese Artistes, by Dame Laura Knight, R.A.



Ian and Alys Rosenfeld, by Arnold Mason, R.A.



Lynette, by Christopher Sanders, A.R.A.

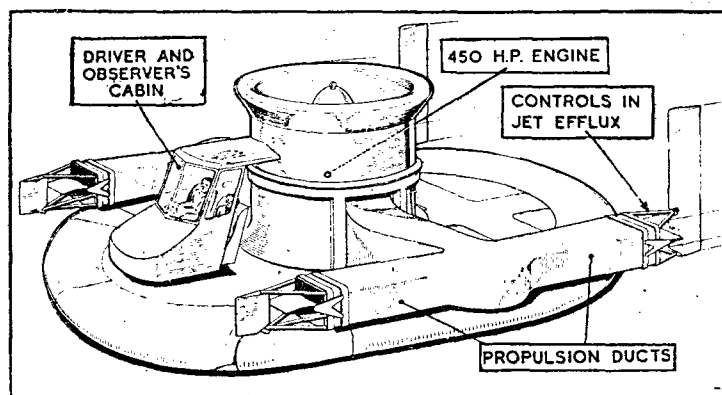


Woodford, R.A.

of the Royal Academy of Arts. It is open, weekdays and Sunday afternoons until August 16.

ed for the owners by The Royal Academy Illustrated

Now the hovering saucer



Trans-ocean travel may well be revolutionised by a new British designed vehicle—the hover ship—which is soon to begin trials on the Isle of Wight. Shaped like an elongated saucer, it will be 30 feet long and 24 feet wide.

The new vehicle will be supported on a "cushion" of air, and riding on this is expected to be able to fly between three and seven feet above the water at speeds up to 100 knots. An ordinary 450 h.p. aircraft piston engine, mounted vertically behind the crew cabin, generates this air cushion by means of a large wooden fan. Some of the air is forced through ducts and expelled at the tail end of the craft to propel it forward.

Two tall fins mounted at rear enable the pilot to control the direction of the craft. To land, he

simply slows down the engine and the craft then settles down as gently as a helicopter does.

One of the most valuable features of the hover-ship is that it can be loaded and serviced on land, thus making harbours and expensive port facilities unnecessary. It could operate in many parts of the world at present inaccessible to ships and aircraft.

The man responsible for the craft is Mr. Christopher Cockerell, a Suffolk boat-builder, who has been working on the project since 1953. The first prototype is being built by Saunders-Roe Ltd.

Mr. Cockerell envisages a complete range of "hovercraft," from small two-man vehicles for harbour and river work, to 100-passenger machines with a single powerful jet engine, and eventually a seven-engine machine carrying over 1000 passengers and over eight cars on channel or lake routes. The efficiency of this vehicle increases with size and the basic simplicity of the design makes huge transatlantic express freight craft of this type a strong possibility within the next decade.

An interesting point that the world's aviation and maritime authorities will have to sort out is that the machine is not catered for in any international regulations. It is not an aircraft, as it does not rely on wings and forward speed for lift. Nor is it a ship, as it operates clear of the water.

PENICILLIN ON PARADE

The laboratory in which Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin has been reconstructed for display in next week's international medical exhibition at Olympia, London. An exact replica of the dish in which he first observed the effect of the mould will be there, together with his microscope.

The actual laboratory is at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and Lady Fleming, who still works there, has collected most of the items for the exhibit at Olympia.

WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO

Cheekie the otter likes sun-bathing

ONE of the happiest animals in the London Zoo is the tame Indian otter Cheekie, who lives on a small, moat-surrounded islet outside the Central Mammal House.

For Cheekie has just been provided with her own sun-bathing site—a small wooden platform on a pole high above her sleeping quarters. Cheekie runs up a series of steps fixed on the pole, and pops on to the platform through a small hole in the side.

"Cheekie was given to us last year by a Singapore family, who had had her as a pet. To our surprise she seems to prefer sun-bathing to water sports, a habit she probably acquired in Singapore," a Zoo official told me. There she lived more or less permanently out of water, and in fact was often taken for walks on a lead, like a dog.

"Here at Regent's Park, Cheekie has proved to be one of the most amusing otters which have ever come our way. When the sun shines, she often shins up the steps to her platform and stands upright on her hind feet, squealing loudly, and waving her forepaws at every passer-by. Cheekie is quite devoted to her keepers and loves nothing better than to shake hands with them."

Gift from Belgium

MR. JOHN YEALLAND, the Zoo's curator of birds, has just come home from a holiday in Belgium, and he did not return empty-handed.

"The most interesting spot to me," said Mr. Yealland, "was a bird sanctuary near Le Zoute, owned by the Burgomaster of Knocke. He has a fine array of aviaries there containing various marsh birds. He gave me three fine redshanks, which are now in our British Birds' Aviary."

Fine feathers

AN unusually handsome bird whose feathers, as and when they are moulted, are likely to be in great demand by visitors, has just reached the Zoo from Malaya. This is a Pagoda owl, sent by Mr. E. E. Smith, of the R.A.F., Singapore.

"Mr. Smith used to work in the laboratories here before joining the R.A.F.," said Mr. Yealland. "And he knows pretty well the type of exhibit we like to have, for with the owl he sent a pair of slow loris, a civet-cat, a Malayan tree-shrew, and three soft-shelled turtles."

"The Pagoda owl, first of its kind we have been able to show for five years, is one of the rarest and handsomest of all the owls. The bird has a beautifully barred plumage and the feathers are nicely marked. The owl sheds a

great number of feathers toward the end of the year, and these always find ready takers. Why do people want them? For all manner of reasons. As a rule, they are wanted for decoration—they look nice on feminine hats, for example. Some people use them as bookmarks!

"An odd point about this Pagoda owl," Mr. Yealland added, "is that, fine fellow though he is, he makes no song about it. He is, in fact, practically silent, except for an occasional 'click' which he makes with his beak."

Reptiles in the rock garden

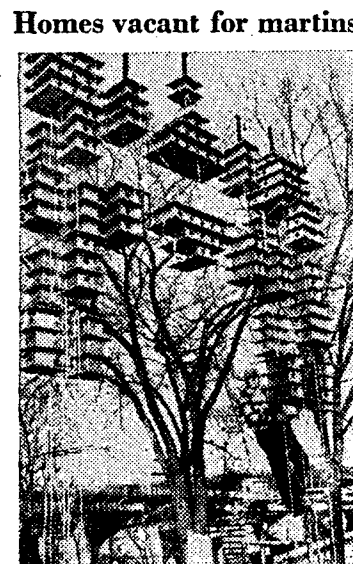
OFFICIALS at the Zoo are busy restocking the reptile rock garden, near the main entrance gate. Gardeners have planted it with rock plants and arranged "sun cushions"—close growths of herbage on which the snakes and lizards can lie and sun themselves.

"We want to have the reptiliary really well stocked this season, for two reasons," Overseer R. A. Lanworn, told me. "As well as having a good show for visitors, we are anxious to breed some of the snakes in the enclosure. We have placed an order for several dozen grass snakes, and also for lizards from Madeira."

"Adders we hope to get mainly from members of the public and amateur snake-catchers. Only last week, for example, we had five adders sent up by an enthusiast living at Camborne in Cornwall."

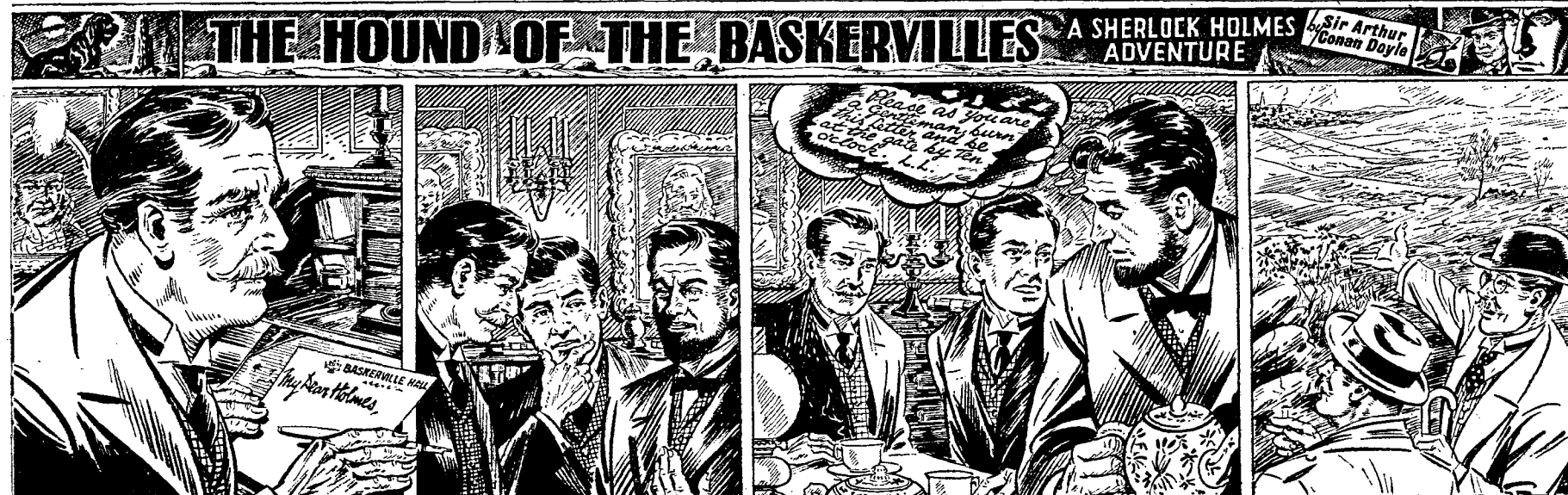
"Grass snakes breed satisfactorily on the rock garden—sometimes a female will lay as many as 40 or 50 eggs. But the resulting families need some watching. There are two hazards here. One is acquisitive small boys, who often try to take one of the six-inch babies by reaching out across the moat. The other "risk" is that starlings, and even sparrows, will often pick up a baby grass snake and fly off with it."

Craven Hill



Homes vacant for martins

An American bird-lover has built an aluminium "apartment house" at Wrightstown, Wisconsin, for the purple martins which migrate every year from South America.



INSTALMENT 7. The figure on the tor vanished. Sir Henry thought it was a warder, looking for the convict. But at the Hall Barrymore said there was a second man on the moor of whom he knew nothing. Watson reported this new mystery to Holmes in London.

Later, Barrymore pleaded with them not to tell the police that his brother-in-law, the convict, was still on the moor. He said arrangements had been made to send the fellow abroad. Somewhat reluctantly they agreed to say nothing.

In gratitude, Barrymore told them something he had revealed to no one else. He believed that old Charles Baskerville was lured to his death on the moor by a woman. For Barrymore had seen in the study grate the charred remains of a letter in a woman's handwriting. Signed with the initials, L.L., the scrap had crumbled when he moved it.

Next day Watson met Dr. Mortimer on the moor and asked him if he knew any woman in the neighbourhood whose initials were L.L. Mortimer could only think of Laura Lyons, who lived in the village of Coombe Tracey.

This picture version is being given by permission of the Trustees of the Estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and of the publishers, Messrs. John Murray

Is this Laura Lyons connected with the mystery man on the moor? See next week's instalment

THE DAWN KILLER

By Monica Edwards

Adapted from the Children's Film Foundation production

An unknown killer-dog has been attacking sheep on Romney Marsh. Tom Hoddys big cross-bred, Lion, is generally suspected, but the Hoddys are saying the Hawkes' collie, Glen, is the killer. As Mr. Hawkes will not agree to shutting Glen into the house, Colin and Anna Hawkes decide to shut him up in a net-shed for one night, to prove he isn't the killer. They creep away with him late at night, but the shed door slams shut in the wind when they are all inside, and they find that there is only one catch—on the outside.

9. The killer shows himself

"WE'RE locked in! And no one knows where we are."

"Steady!" Colin said. "There's no danger." But he, too, shook and rattled the door. They pushed and pulled it, and threw themselves against it, and then they paused and looked at each other. The wind sighed outside and Glen came and stood with them, looking up inquiringly. Colin glanced at the little window.

"It's too small for us to get through, even if we broke it." He rubbed a hole in the dust on it with his shirt sleeve.

Anna looked as if she might cry. Colin could see her strained face, white in the dusty moonlight from the window. He said sturdily: "If Glen could have faced it alone, we ought to be able to face it together."

Anna made a great effort, smiling shakily.

"At least it doesn't seem quite so pitch black, now that we've been in here for a bit. I suppose the sensible thing is to make a comfortable place for the night." She knelt to pull and straighten the pile of old torn nets so that they might make some kind of reasonable bed. "You can sleep on that. I'm going to curl up with Glen. How many hours until it's light?"

"About six, I should think." Colin watched her smoothing out the nets. Dropping down on the net-bed he sat looking at her sombrely as she curled herself round with her hay-cock head pillowed on Glen's sleek side, shutting her eyes resolutely. "At least I've got my knot-string. I shall be able to do even the Turk's Head without looking, by the morning," he said.

Fishing it out from his pocket he tried first to remember just how the Carrick Bend went. Even if you weren't going to be a seaman, he told himself, knots could be extremely useful on a farm...

Somehow, the next thing he was aware of was a low growl from Glen, and, threading through this noise, the crying of seabirds round the net-sheds. So he had gone to sleep, and now it must be nearly morning or the gulls would not be calling. There was the wind still southing round the sheds; and then another whining growl from Glen. Colin was suddenly awake.

"What's up, old boy?" He reached a hand across to Anna, still curled on Glen's mat. "Wake up! It's nearly morning."

"O-oh! I thought I was never going to sleep at all. What's the matter with Glen? Wasn't he growling?"

They both watched him leave his mat and move to the door, where he stood still listening rigidly. A little stiffly Colin got to his feet.

"Something outside. Perhaps longshore fishermen—the tide'll be right out." He went across to the window, staring out into the beginnings of dawn with Anna watching intently. Suddenly he stiffened.

"Anna! Come quickly—look! The sheep—oh, the sheep!"



Glen was jumping, trying to reach the opening

Anna leaped to the window, peering over Colin's shoulder, and Glen was growling again, more ominously now. Out in the dim dawn light there was a hurried urgent movement of sheep in the field beyond the track.

"Our sheep! Something's frightened them... Oh, Colin, look! It's the killer—it must be!"

Peering through the salt-veiled glass and the drifting early mist they stared in horror at the sheep, that were huddling in sudden fear: and it was then that they saw the dark shape of a very large dog, creeping slowly towards the flock.

Glen was wild to get out, his paws tearing at the door. He snuffled at the draughty gap below it and his hackles stood up stiffly along his back. Colin was gripping the window-sill.

"You can see it must be Lion! No other dog would be so big."

"What shall we do?" Anna's voice rose and faltered in despair.

But Colin was already groping round the hut.

"There's only one thing." He picked up Glen's old broomhead and began to smash the little window with it.

"But if we let him out we've lost our proof—all we brought him here for!"

"They're Dad's sheep. We can't just watch them being killed."

He bashed on determinedly, pushing the jagged glass through with the broomhead. Glen was jumping, trying to reach the opening, but Anna put her hand on his ruff. Colin knocked out the last piece of glass. "There, all clear now. Help me to heave him out."

Through the grey light

"If he jumped down on all that broken glass..." She was half sobbing as she shouldered his hind quarters; but the collie gave a great thrust from the sill that carried him soaring over the shattered glass, and raced off gallantly through the grey light to intercept the killer. Anna saw him through tears.

"Now we've let him out, no one will believe us!"

"They'll have to believe us." It was a dogged remark, and she knew that Colin's mouth would be in a dogged line, too, and his shoulders squared; but she was staring at the floating mist that trailed between the net-shed and the flock, so that nothing more could be seen of the sheep, or of the two dogs on whom one at least of the lives in the flock depended.

Colin was sizing up the window, his hands still on the sill.

"I almost think—if we tried—we could squeeze through after him."

"Those fish-boxes!" Anna laid her hands on one and Colin snatched another.

"Perhaps if we tried to get you through first—you're smaller—then you could open the door."

Racing after Glen

Anna made a great stride up on to the boxes, hanging on by the sill.

"Now, legs through and sit on the sill, and then slide down—but mind the glass. All right if you land on your feet."

"There isn't a sound from the field," Anna said anxiously, letting herself slither. Colin heard her feet scrunch down on the glass, and then the quick beat as she ran round to the door. In another moment they were racing after Glen towards the sheep, and the mist began thinning in vaporous wisps, revealing the flock huddled fearfully against the road-fence. It also revealed Glen and Lion standing facing each other, bristling with hostility, and Glen was between Lion and the sheep.

Anna's face showed her shocked feelings as they stopped, panting, at the fence.

"It is Lion!"

"Listen! One of us must go back to fetch Dad." Colin spoke urgently.

Anna was very distressed.

"I'll go—I couldn't stay here and see them fight."

"As quick as you can, then. Remember it's quicker to walk and run alternately than to run all the way."

She started running, wondering if she would have the will-power to walk before she had to; and Colin turned back to stay by the flock, and the dogs that glared at each other stiffly, holding one another with their eyes.

Anna was rounding a clump of willows when Eli and Shep appeared suddenly out of the misty dawnlight right in her path.

"Eh, bless us, gal!"

Anna stopped breathlessly.

"Oh, Eli, I am so glad to see you! I'm running to fetch Dad. Glen's holding Lion off the sheep, near where we were yesterday, and Colin's there. Oh, please go quickly—you'll be our witness! And please don't let them start fighting!"

"Yer Dad and Cathy's out looking fer you, same as me. But I called to mind what young Colin said about shutting up Glen, and then you two going to that ole net-shed, an' I set off straight there."

Anna was half turned ready to run on again.

"They might have got home—

I'll go on and see. Oh, hurry, Eli!"

The old man was not one to be rushed.

"Listen, gal! 'Tain't no manner of use having yer Dad and me for witnesses, Glen being our dog. Go you down to the shore and fetch up a coupler longshore fishermen; there's fower gone down there. Quickly, now! I'll go and see about they dogs."

Anna swerved the other way.

"If I can make them run, I will!" And then she was racing back towards the sea that lay silently out at its farthest ebb away down the wide wet sands; and Eli strode on into the grey-ness, leaning a little, with Shep at his heel.

State of fury

Colin was beginning to feel that he could not avert the disaster of a ferocious battle between the two dogs for one minute longer when the old man came out of the mist.

Hoddy's great tawny cross-bred had worked himself up into a state of fury because of this second interception by his old enemy. Instead of streaking silently for home, as he well might have done, he stood his ground in a bristling, slaving, growling frenzy of hatred.

Glen had responded with all the passionately defensive instincts that a true sheepdog is born with, and if it had not been for Colin desperately hanging on to him he would have smashed into the bigger dog immediately.

To be continued

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TWO PEOPLE

JUNIOR

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Green tent canvas. Sleeps two easily.

7' long x 4'6" x 3'9" high, 1'6" walls.

85/-, plus 3/6 carr.

THE WORLD OF STAMPS

THE island of St. Helena, in the South Atlantic, was so named by a Portuguese explorer, Joao de Nova Castella, who discovered it on St. Helena's Day, May 21, 1502.

Portuguese, Dutch, and English ships regularly called at St. Helena on their way to and from the East Indies, and in February, 1659, an expedition was sent by the English East India Company to colonise the lonely island.

The colonists reached their destination in May, 1659, and now, 300 years later, three special stamps have been issued to celebrate the anniversary. All the



stamps bear the Queen's portrait, and the 6d. value, pictured here, shows the London, the ship which carried Captain John Dutton, the leader of the expedition.

The other values feature the East India Company's coat-of-arms and the inscribed foundation stone laid by Captain Dutton when he built the first fortifications on St. Helena.

NEXT month a series of commemorative stamps will mark an anniversary in another famous British colony, the Bahamas. This long chain of islands in the West Indies became a British possession during the 17th century, but for many years the real rulers were the pirates and buccaneers who infested the Spanish Main. Collectors may find reminders of those stirring times if they examine the postmarks on their Bahamas stamps. Pirate Well, Rum Cay, Pure Gold, and Deadman's Cay are among the post offices whose names recall the early "colonists."

With the coming of more peaceful times the prosperity of the islands increased and in 1859 the Bahamas issued their first postage stamp, a penny red portraying Queen Victoria. The centenary of that issue will be marked on June 10 by four special stamps. The frame of their design will be

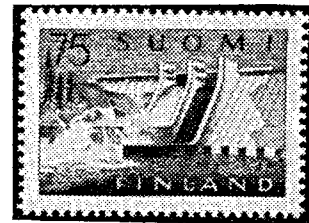
almost identical with that of the



1859 issue, with the pineapple and conch-shell symbols in the lower corners, but the portrait of our own Queen Elizabeth II will replace that of her great-great-grandmother.

Among other new issues to be made soon in the British Commonwealth are a complete series of definitive stamps for Ghana, a series of six special stamps to mark the grant of self-government to Singapore, and six stamps celebrating the 350th anniversary of British rule in Bermuda.

FROM Finland comes a new stamp which features an unusual subject, the sluice gates of



the Pyhakoski power station on the River Oulujoki. This is one of ten hydro-electric power stations built in recent years to supply electricity to towns and villages in northern Finland.

FINALLY, as a philatelic reminder that summer holidays are on the way, this 1952 charity stamp



from the Netherlands shows a happy little Dutch girl who has left her bucket and spade for the thrills of a donkey ride along the sands.

C. W. HILL

New books in brief

SADDLE UP

The Lost Pony, by Christine Pullein-Thompson (Burke, 8s. 6d.)

FOR boys and girls who love ponies—and would love one of their own—this author has produced the fourth of a series which has already made a wide appeal. It is a dreams-come-true story which shows a keen insight into the ways of children as well as horses.

NEW FRIENDS

Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds, by Malcolm Saville (George Newnes, 8s. 6d.)

A POPULAR author here introduces an attractive new set of young people, the Gray family and their friends. This first book is set in a Sussex town near the sea, where Father and Mother Gray open a café called the Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds. Then the adventures start! A story for children aged nine to eleven.

IN SWEDISH WATERS

The Dahlia's Cargo, by Roger Pilkington (Macmillan, 13s. 6d.)

AN exciting holiday yarn set in Sweden's beautiful inland waterways. A party of young people, three British and one American, become involved in a mystery which starts when a yacht is found wrecked on a lake shore with no one on board.

HARD-HITTING HERO

Leathers in Mozambique, by Edward M. Chrystie (Hodder and Stoughton, 8s. 6d.)

ADMIRERS of secret agent Leathers can here take another breathless trip with him. A complete American scientific expedition has disappeared in the jungle, and a man called in to investigate has been killed. Leathers steps in and soon finds that behind the riddle lurks the worst criminal in Africa.

TROUBLE WITH SIX LOCOS

The San Pedro Adventure, by Andrew Wood (Max Parrish, 6s.)

THE San Pedro Consolidated Railway needs locomotives, and Commander Tollemache, with four young friends, has brought six from England to this Central American State. The inevitable revolution is raging, but they get the locomotives to the railway, only to meet trouble on the line—from an American competitor.

SAILING AGAINST HIS COUNTRY

Wickham and the Armada, by Henry Treece (Hulton Press, 12s. 6d.)

A WRITER of fine historical yarns here tells of the adventures of Giles Wickham—farmer's son, poacher, actor, soldier, pirate. With Sir Philip Sidney on the field at Zutphen, Giles is wounded and eventually finds himself on a pirate ship, which is seized by a Spanish vessel. And before long he is sailing with the Armada against his own people...

WRITING WITHOUT TEARS

The Silver Pencil, by Patricia Ward (Collins, 10s. 6d.)

ANOTHER holiday adventure in North Wales, but this time on the coast. And now there is a touch of magic in the air, for the silver pencil which Anna finds on the beach does its own writing. It is the kind of pencil that all writers have longed for ever since writing began!

TALE OF A KANGAROO

Dumper and the Circus, by Evelyn Bartlett (Angus & Robertson, 13s. 6d.)

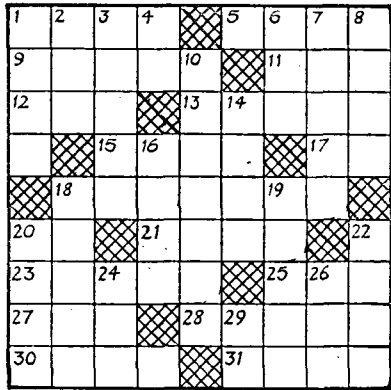
THREE huge woolly caterpillars seem unlikely companions for an ambitious kangaroo, but that will not prevent younger readers from enjoying this Australian story of engaging creatures of the Bush.

Man of the right stamp



Policemen collect stamps just like other folk and this picture was taken at the show organised recently by the Metropolitan Police Philatelic Society, at Scotland Yard.

PUZZLE PARADE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

READING ACROSS. 1 Heavenly body. 5 Musical instrument. 9 Subject. 11 Female rabbit. 12 Air Raid Precautions. 13 Smell. 15 Long narrow mark. 17 Tourist Trophy. 18 People who make a loan. 20 South-east. 21 Large book. 23 A builder in stone. 25 Enemy. 27 Eggs. 28 Happening. 30 Obtains. 31 A space or region.

READING DOWN: 1 Remain. 2 Hill. 3 Fruit. 4 Royal Institute. 6 Fuss. 7 Completely defeats. 8 Saucy. 10 Forgive. 14 Consider. 16 In. 18 Depart. 19 Allude to or make mention of. 20 Mixture of smoke and fog. 22 Second letter of the Greek alphabet. 24 Rested. 26 Single. 29 Virginia.

Answer next week

HIDDEN NAMES

The names of six boys are hidden in this paragraph. Can you find them?

GET the bus to stop at the corner, go down the lane, where you will, I am sure, see plenty of red flowers. If the white vase in my den is not suitable, I have another I can lend you.

IN SPACE

First, find the answers to the following clues. If you do so correctly the initial and last letters of the words form the names of two planets.

FLOWERS are arranged in it.

Girl's name.

Not distant.

One person or thing.

Band of silk worn round the waist.

FAME IN FIGURES

8104	10105
3887	6298
5615	11550

Complete the addition sums above. When you have done so, change the figures in the answers into letters according to the following code:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	C	D	E	G	L	N	O	W	Y

If your answers are correct the figures will indicate the name of a great fiction writer who was born 100 years ago this week.

GAME BIRD

Can you make the name of a game bird from the letters in the following words?

PAINT gram.

C N Competition Corner

WIN A SPORTS PRIZE!

FIVE First Prizes this week, and the winners can choose their awards—a new Tennis Racket, Cricket Bat, or ball-bearing Roller Skates with rubber wheels. There are ten other prizes, too—inflatable rings for fun at the swimming baths or seaside.

So if you are under 17 and live in Great Britain, Ireland, or the Channel Islands, have a shot at our pictorial crossword below—it has pictures instead of the usual clues.

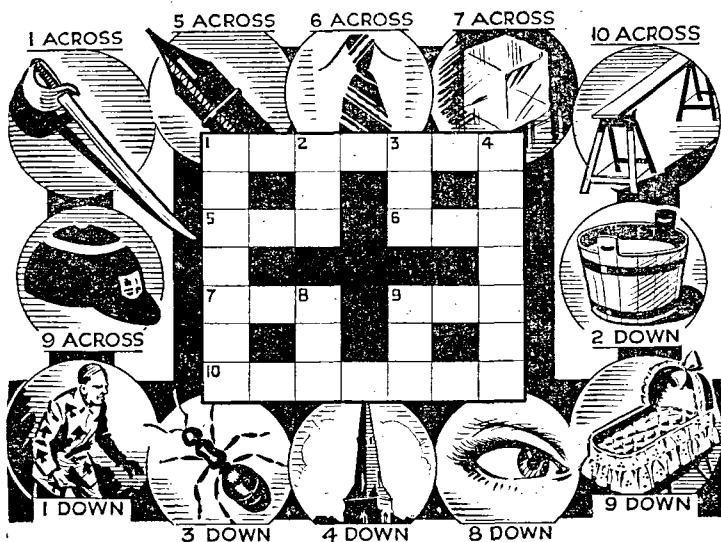
Identify the objects and fill in their names to solve the puzzle, then copy the completed word square neatly on to a postcard. Add your full name, age, and address, give your choice of award if a First Prize winner, then ask a parent or guardian to sign the entry card as your own unaided work. Post to

C N Competition No. 26,

3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.),

to arrive by Tuesday, June 2, the closing date.

The prizes will be awarded for correct entries which are also the neatest according to age. The Editor's decision is final.



PICK THIS FLOWER

A DAINTY plant whose small, pink blooms

Should first appear in May.

Its name suggests one should provide,

Against a rainy day.

WORD SQUARE

Form a square that reads the same down and across.

FLOWER of England.

Place to roast.

Planted in spring.

Finishes.

FIND ME

TAKE the fourth of water, and the second of land,

Take the third of fish, and the fourth of sand.

Take the second of wind, and the first of sail;

Take the third of shell, or the fourth of gale.

Put these in order and they will spell [well.

A place, which children love so

FISH FROM THE PENGUINS



ARRANGE the penguins so that the letters in each row will form the name of a fish.

NAME THE COUNTIES

From the clues find the names of six counties.

Two English counties—one containing the name of an English estuary, the other a ruler; two Welsh counties—one with a market, the other a unit; two Scottish counties—one containing a vehicle, the other a large, deer-like animal.

MRS SHREW WAS WRONG

"SOMEONE ought to speak to Madam Hare," said Mrs. Shrew to her neighbour, Mrs. Fieldmouse.

"What has she done now?" Mrs. Fieldmouse asked.

"She is neglecting her babies, that's what!" said Mrs. Shrew.

Together they skipped through the long grasses to the field's high corner. But it took Mrs. Shrew ages to find the hare babies again. However, there were the five tiny leverets, yards apart, each alone on its grassy form.

"What did I tell you?" squeaked Mrs. Shrew when they had searched out each one. "And Madam Hare miles away, having fun somewhere, I'll be bound!"

How very wrong she was. Madam Hare was lying near, and heard all they said. They were surprised when she confronted them on their way home.

"So you think I am neglecting my children, do you?" she demanded. "But if we cuddled to-

gether my scent would stay in the forme, and Sneaky Stoat would smell them out. Alone, they have no scent, and are difficult to find. Also, I stay around, as you must admit, too. Or I would not have heard you just now!"

Mrs. Fieldmouse looked ashamed, but Mrs. Shrew said: "Scent! Pooh! A likely excuse!" All the same, she returned later to see if Mrs. Hare was on guard.

She got a shock! Sneaky Stoat had just followed that scent trail left earlier by herself and her neighbour.

At that very moment Madam Hare was kicking him with her strong hind legs as he crouched to attack one of them.

He soon had enough, and bounded off. So did Mrs. Shrew, in the opposite direction. Next day, when she returned to apologise, the formes were empty. Good Mother Hare had carried her babies to new homes.

JANE THORNICROFT

LUCKY DIP

SAYINGS ABOUT HOPE

WHILE there's life there's hope.

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.

Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper.

He that lives on hope has but a slender diet.

Great hopes make great men.

SWAN AT THE SEASIDE

CRIED a swan down from London, S.E.,

When he first saw the ocean, "Dear me!

If this lake's in a park

I should like to remark

What a very large park it must be!"

SOOT!

A BLACKBIRD was flying about my room.

Down through the chimney he had come!

There was soot on the ceiling, soot on the floor,

And then the cat walked in at the door

So I grabbed the cat and shut him outside

And then I opened the windows wide.

Out flew the bird—he was happy and free,

But, oh, the work, he had left for me!

A LITTLE HELP

JANET wanders round the plot,

Helping Daddy such a lot!

Handing him the things he needs— All the different kinds of seeds!

Bringing water in a can—

Daddy is a lucky man!

Janet has a tiny spade,

For Daddy really needs her aid,

And does not notice if she squirms,

And runs away from wriggly worms!

PUZZLE PICTURE

THE man in the picture is just swinging a hula hoop round his waist during a half-second



exposure with a special lamp. This lamp flashes 120 times a second.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Hidden names. Pat; Alan; William; Fred; Denis; Eric.

Word square. Vase; Rose; Oven; Seed; Ends.

Fame in figures. Conan Doyle, born May 22, 1859. Pick this flower. Thrift.

Game bird. Ptarmigan. Find me. Seaside.

Fish from the penguins. Cod; eel; ray.

Name the counties. Northumberland; Buckingham; Carmarthen; Merioneth; Kincardine; Selkirk.

JUST A FEW WORDS

1. C Perjury is the act of making a false statement under oath. (Latin *perjurare*, to swear falsely.)

2. B Heinous means hateful; extremely wicked. (From French *haineux*, full of hate.)

3. C To federate is to unite (independent States) into a league under a central government. (From Latin *foederatum*, established by treaty.)

4. A The perimeter is the boundary line; the total distance round an area. (From Greek *peri-*, around, and *metron*, measure.)

5. C Tractable means docile; easily managed or influenced. (From Latin *tractabilis*, that which may be handled, manageable.)

6. B Paramount means supreme. (From Old French *paramont*—*per*, by or beside and *mont*, above, from Latin *Ad montem*, the hill.)

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

Answers are given in column 5.

1. He was guilty of *perjury*.

A—Fickle behaviour.

B—Causing much suffering.

C—Lying under oath.

2. That was a *heinous* act.

A—Laughter-provoking.

B—Atrociously wicked.

C—Quite unimportant.

3. The States are *federating*.

A—Stirring in unrest.

B—Increasing productivity.

C—Uniting under central government.

4. Find the *perimeter* of the field.

A—Total distance round the edge.

B—Measurement from corner to corner.

C—Area it covers.

5. She is a *tractable* person.

A—Here today, gone tomorrow.

B—A fascinating character.

C—So easily led.

6. The people's wishes are *paramount*.

A—Too much to ask for.

B—Of first importance.

C—Becoming out of hand.

All ready for Britain's toughest cycle race

NEXT Tuesday Britain's leading road cyclists, together with teams from Belgium and, it is hoped, Czechoslovakia, will set out on the first leg of the U.K.'s longest and toughest cycle race—the Tour of Britain.

Seventeen teams of five will take part in this gruelling marathon, the route of which will take them through 27 counties and over 1300 miles of England and Wales before reaching the finishing point at Eastbourne on June 6.

Up hill and down dale, the riders will face a daily ride of about 100 miles. Fitness and stamina obviously play a great part in a race of this kind, but strong nerves are also called for. After struggling up some of the back-breaking hills, the riders face the steep descent on the other side—where speeds of over 50 m.p.h. are often reached.

Each of the 17 teams will have its own servicing group, who will be following close behind. In the event of a puncture or a slipped chain these experts will be ready to jump into action at lightning speed—for every minute, of course, is vital.

At certain points along the route the riders will be able to snatch refreshments as they flash past. And a mobile milk bar will be in position to provide food and drink at the end of each day's exhausting ride.

At some towns arrangements have been made to dry-clean the cyclists' clothes overnight ready for a fresh start the next day.

FOOTNOTE. Up-to-the-minute news of the tour will be broadcast in BBC's Network Three from 6.40—7.10 every evening.

Swingtime in springtime

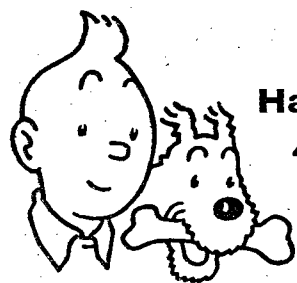
A little club-swinging helps to get Jill Dudderidge, international sprinter of Wembley, Middlesex, fit for the coming season.



SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who was recently chosen as England's Young Footballer of the Year?
2. Which English Test cricketer is sometimes nicknamed "Kipper"?
3. Which athlete holds the European 1500-metres championship?
4. When were the Indian cricketers previously on tour in England?
5. Who is the only English girl who has swum 100 yards in less than a minute?
6. Which soccer team holds the F.A. Youth Cup?

1. Jimmy Armfield of Blackpool. 2. Colin Cowdrey—because of his liking for kippers. 3. Brian Hewson. 4. In 1952. 5. Diana Wilkinson. 6. Blackburn Rovers.



Have you met

TINTIN

and Snowy?

You may have seen Tintin the famous boy reporter, Snowy his dog and their friends on BBC Children's TV (Sundays, 5 p.m.) or in the *News Chronicle*. Their full adventures are told in magnificently coloured cartoon books by Hergé—and for excitement and fun there is nothing like them. See them at your bookshop.

8s 6d each

The first four books are *The Crab with the Golden Claws*, *King Ottokar's Sceptre*, *The Secret of the Unicorn* and *Red Rackham's Treasure*.



Captain Haddock



Thomson



Thompson



Professor Calculus

METHUEN

Highest jump for 12 years

AN encouraging start to the athletics season was given by 19-year-old Gordon Miller of Sanderstead, Surrey, who set a new English native record for the high jump of 6 feet 7½ inches.

It was a particularly fine achievement, for Gordon, who trains in his back garden under his father, damaged his ankle earlier in the year and was unable to jump for two months.

The previous record was held by Peter Wells, who emigrated to New Zealand some years ago. In point of fact Peter afterwards jumped 6 feet 7½ inches, but as this was not on English soil it cannot count as an English record.

Now Gordon is working hard to perfect a new technique, and is confident that before long he will beat Alan Patterson's British record of 6 feet 7½ inches, made 12 years ago.

Difficult job for our boxers

BRITISH boxers will be in Switzerland this week to compete in the European amateur championships, starting on Saturday at Lucerne.

Four of the English amateurs recently won titles in the A.B.A. championships, and the others were runners-up to Scots boxers, who will also be at Lucerne representing their own country.

Dave Thomas, the heavyweight title-holder, will be endeavouring to add a European championship to his three A.B.A. crowns, won in successive years, the first man to do so since 1884.

The task of the British team at Lucerne will not be an easy one, for they will be meeting some of the finest boxers in Europe, including champions from Russia, Bulgaria, Rumania, and Italy.

Other people's customs

ONE of the hotels in Onchan, Isle of Man, recently heard from the Japanese riders who will be taking part in the Isle of Man T.T. races next month. They wrote that they would prefer to sleep on mattresses on the floor—and to lie north to south. They are also bringing a month's supply of rice with them.

Chip shot with a vengeance

MR. PETER WILDING, of Scarborough, trying to chip a ball out of the rough, sent it up into the air and straight down into one of his turn-ups. None of the other players knew what rule this situation came under, so Mr. Wilding took a club, stuck out his leg, and swung at the ball.

For the next four holes he limped, and an X-ray revealed that the chip shot had chipped a bone in his leg.

SPORTING GALLERY

RAMAN SUBBA ROW



Raman, brilliant young Northampton captain, went to Australia as one of Peter May's team with a fine record, but injury robbed him of his chance to serve England.

Son of an Indian lawyer, he was born at Croydon and educated at Whitgift and Cambridge, for whom he scored 94 against Oxford in 1952. The following year he joined Surrey and gave good service for two seasons.

Rather surprisingly, he was allowed to go to Northampton, and Surrey had ample opportunity to reflect on their loss when he played against them at the Oval last summer. It is true that Surrey's best bowlers were absent, but Subba Row hit 300, the highest score ever made by a Northampton player.

It was his first season as captain and he led his new county to fourth place in the table.



David Coleman keeps calm

ONE of the busiest men on Saturday afternoons is undoubtedly David Coleman, compère of the BBC Television sports programme Grandstand. For nearly three hours he links the various sports being shown and gives the latest news, all the while being bombarded with information from all parts of the country and all corners of the studio.

"The most important thing about being compère for this Saturday marathon," says David, "is to keep calm. After all, when you have a studio filled with ticker-tape machines and an elaborate score-board, as well as the usual tangle of cameras, lights, and microphones, and a constant to-ing and fro-ing of outside broadcasts from different parts of the country, there are plenty of chances for a slip-up."

To help him move about the studio and broadcast from the

most convenient spot, David has a special suit containing a built-in microphone, transmitter, aerial, and hearing aid.

"But until you get used to things," says David, "it's a bit of a strain having Editor Paul Fox and Producer Bryan Cowgill talking through my hearing aid into one ear, and all the studio bustle coming in at the other."

Even when he is not actually in front of the cameras, David is still not allowed to relax, for he must keep up with his "homework"—studying all the sporting events of the day.

On the brink

Anne Morton and her fiancée, Ted Buswell, both represented England at the Empire Games at Cardiff. Ted is seen about to time Anne over a length of the Derby Baths, Blackpool.

